(c) what are the Oil fields that will be allotted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 87 bids have been received for development of small sized fields.

(c) Proposals for award of contracts in [illegible] of the small-sized fields are under [illegible]ion.

British firms for implementing southern gas grid project

2898. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Firms have shown their keen interest on implementing southern gas grid projects;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed with UK firms; and

(c) what are the other projects where UK has agreed to help India in setting up the gas projects in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A proposal for a joint venture project with British Gas for the supply of gas in Bombay City is under consideration of the Gas Authority of India Ltd.

Oil-exploration by International Companies

2899. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to offer for the first time 35 Blocks for Oil-exploration for surveying of potential oil fields, to international companies;

(b) if so, what are the details of Blocks that are offered for the oil exploration;

(c) whether any agreements with the international companies have been reached;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the oil exploration survey by international companies will start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Government had, in September, 1993, offered 35 blocks for carrying out speculative geophysical and other types of surveys. Of these 35 blocks, 21 are offshore and 14 are onshore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The work will start after the contracts are concluded through negotiations.

Private sectors in LPG/Kerosene Marketing

2900. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item which appeared in the Statesman Dated 4th October, 1993 that cooking gas (LPG), the house wife's dream fuel, would easily become available in the next few years with the introduction of parallel marketing scheme for LPG and kerosene which will show definite results in the next two to three years;